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MEMA Announces Applicant Briefings for Federal Assistance

Communities from 5 Additional Counties Eligible for Aid for Tropical Storm Irene

As a result of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts receiving an expansion of the major disaster declaration for Tropical Storm Irene, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be conducting a series of Applicant Briefings, regarding the availability of federal funding for five (5) additional counties: Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth and Dukes Counties. These briefings will explain the reimbursement process for receiving federal funds for eligible expenses incurred by state and local governments, as well as eligible private non-profit organizations, for equipment, contracts as well as emergency and permanent work associated with the storm.

These Applicant Briefings do not apply to individuals, residents or businesses.

Communities are encouraged to send representatives from local emergency management, public works and finance departments since the briefings will explain the reimbursement process in detail. The briefings are expected to last approximately 1.5 hours. It is imperative that communities send at least one representative to obtain the necessary forms and information to enable each community to receive proper reimbursement. Private non-profit organizations located in these counties may be eligible to receive federal reimbursement for their expenses. In order for a private non-profit to be eligible for reimbursement, it must be performing an essential government service and have incurred a minimum of \$1,000 in eligible expenses. To assist in identifying an eligible private non-profit, please refer to the FEMA website at www.fema.gov or contact the MEMA Disaster Recovery Department at 508-820-2004.

Application Briefing Schedule

(Note: Communities can attend any briefing. It is not necessary that you attend the briefing in your county.)

Thursday, October 27, 2011 @ 10:30am

Dukes County: Steamship Authority Building, 1 Water Street, 2nd Floor, Vineyard Haven, MA

Friday, October 28, 2011 @ 10:00am

Barnstable County: Harwich Senior Center, 100 Oak Street, Harwich, MA

Friday, October 28, 2011 @ 2:00pm

Plymouth County: Plymouth Public Library, Otto Fehlow Room, 132 South Street, Plymouth, MA

Monday, October 31, 2011 @ 10:00am

Bristol County: Silver City Galleria Mall Community Room, 2 Galleria Mall Drive, Taunton, MA

Monday, October 31, 2011 @ 2:00pm

Norfolk County: Four Points Sheraton, 1125 Boston Providence Turnpike (Route 1), Norwood, MA

MEMA is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man-made. For additional information about MEMA and Flooding Issues, go to www.mass.gov/mema. Also, follow MEMA updates on *Facebook* and *Twitter*.

Nine Massachusetts Counties Now Eligible for FEMA Public Assistance

As of October 20, 2011, five more Massachusetts counties (**Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Norfolk and Plymouth**) are eligible to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) funding for response and recovery efforts due to damage and losses caused by Tropical Storm Irene from August 27 to 29. Nine counties are now eligible for PA.

Four counties – **Berkshire, Franklin, Hamden and Hampton** – are part of the original presidential disaster declaration on September 3, 2011, that included Public Assistance for the Commonwealth.

“FEMA Public Assistance dollars come to the community through a partnership of cost-sharing between the applicant, the state and the federal government,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer Mark H. Landry. “FEMA picks up 75 percent of the eligible cost of putting a community back on its feet.”

Entities that may be eligible for PA include:

Local and county governments;
State governmental agencies;
Private nonprofit organizations owning or operating facilities that provide essential services... hospitals, nursing homes, colleges and universities, medical care facilities and providers.

PA grants are available to cover eligible costs in seven work categories:

- A: debris removal
- B: emergency protective measures
- C: road systems and bridges
- D: water control facilities

E: public buildings, contents and equipment

F: utilities

G: parks and recreational

For more information on FEMA's PA program, www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm.

Leasing Your Land to a Farmer

An Information Session on Leasing Your Land for Agricultural Production

Making land available for farming is essential for our community's agriculture. Having a farmer on your land can be rewarding for you, too.

Thursday November 3, 2011 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM , The Groton Grange, 80 Champney St., Groton, MA 01450

At this information session, going over the basics, including finding and working with a farmer, information on leases, legal aspects, and community considerations. Presenters include Becca Weaver (New Entry), Kathy Ruhf (Land For Good), beginning farmers, and landowners.

This project is supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2010-49400-21765 and #2010-03067.

Contact: Becca Weaver, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, bweaver@comteam.org, 978-654-6745. [Click here for registration.](#)



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/agcommishsoares.